



Californians flock to polls; McCain, Clinton score

By JOHN HORNBERG
Staff Writer

The largest projected turnout in California history for an election showed up for Tuesday's primary, resulting in voting problems ranging from decline-to-state voters being turned away to voting locations running out of ballots.

A projection for California was 8.9 million voters, a record for the state, according to the Field Poll.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen was satisfied with the projected high turnout, stating that the problems that happened with this primary were based on the high voter turnout.

"It's been decades since California had a primary where we counted," she said to reporters. "Some of what you are seeing aren't things you would have seen in past primaries because the nominations were already sewn up."

With approximately 24 percent of the votes counted by 11 p.m., Hillary Clinton and John McCain led their respective parties primaries in California, according to the California secretary of state's office. Propositions 91, 92 and 93 were all losing as of late last night, with the four Indian gaming propositions, 94 to 97, all passing by considerable margins.

Sen. Clinton was claiming 54.6 percent of the vote, while Obama had 34.3 percent, according to the secretary's office. Clinton also led Santa Clara County with 56.6 percent of the vote and a little more than 31 percent of the votes counted.

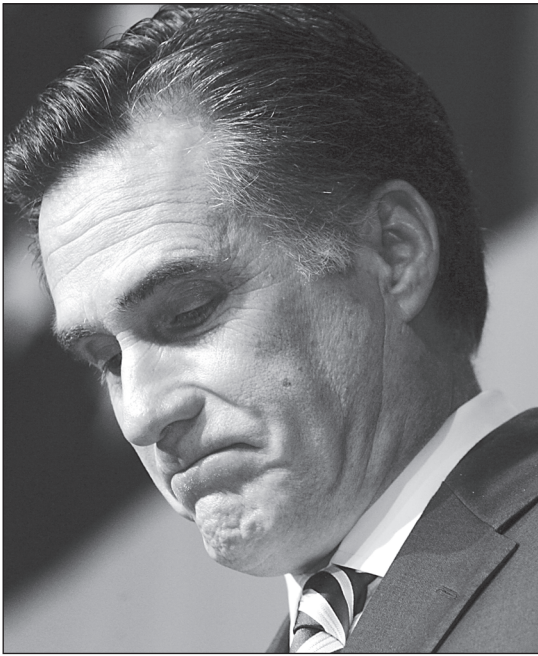
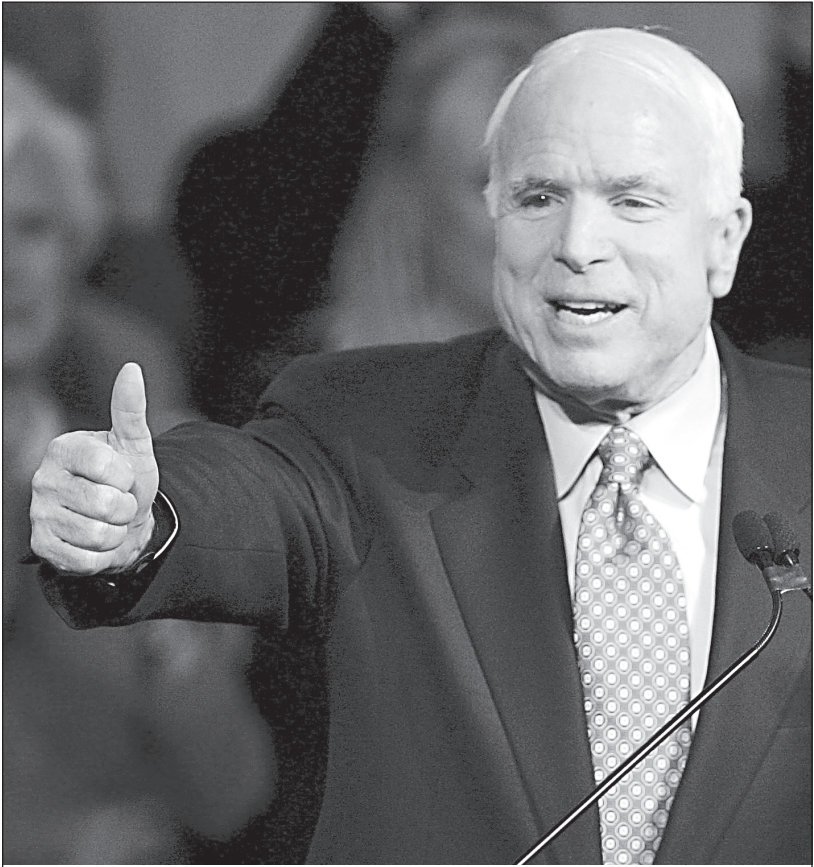
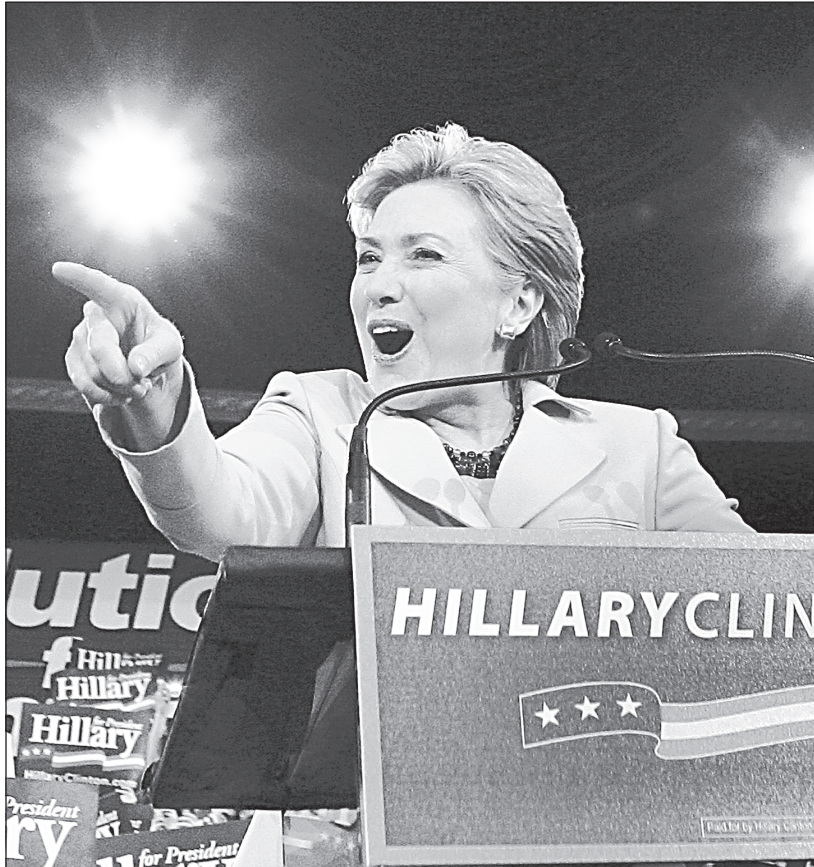
For the Republicans, McCain held a large lead over his nearest competitor, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. McCain had 43.8 percent of the statewide vote, with Romney at 26.3 percent. Mike Huckabee was a distant third, with 11.6 percent of the votes counted.

McCain also claimed 51.1 percent of the vote in Santa Clara County as of 11 p.m.

By 12:30 this morning, the Associated Press reported that senators Clin-

See **CALIF**, Page 4

AND AWAY THEY GO



COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clockwise from top left: Clinton in New York, McCain in Arizona, Huckabee in Arkansas, Romney in West Virginia, and Obama in Illinois. The Republican and Democratic candidates jockeyed for presidential position on Super Tuesday in the national primaries and caucuses.

Surprises abound as candidates vie for momentum

See **VOTE**, Page 4

Prop 91 Transportation Funds 	Prop 92 Community Colleges 	Prop 93 Limits on Legislator's Terms in Office 	Prop 94 Pechanga tribe slot machines 	Prop 95 Morongo tribe slot machines 	Prop 96 Sycuan tribe slot machines 	Prop 97 Agua tribe slot machines
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The propositions on Tuesday's California primary ballot. See easyvoter.org for more information on the propositions.

Library pornography spurs concern
San Jose councilman argues for filtered computer use at S.J. libraries



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

A screen shot of the warning displayed when entering a pornographic Web site at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

By JESSE KIMBREL
Staff Writer

San Jose City Councilman Pete Constant recommended in a memo to the city's rules committee last October that they forward a proposal to the council for "ensuring safe and child-sensitive Internet use at San Jose's public libraries."

Constant is concerned with children viewing "second-hand porn" while visiting San Jose's public libraries, which includes the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

His definition of "second-hand porn" is when a child views pornography over the shoulder of a library computer user.

Constant said he first became aware there was a problem when people in his district ex-

pressed concern after they had seen a television news report that showed people committing lewd acts in San Jose's public libraries.

"My biggest group of supporters are parents," Constant said.

He said 50 percent of libraries nationwide use some sort of Internet filtering system.

The California Library Association sent a letter to the director of the King Library, Jane Light, expressing support for the current library Internet policy.

The letter was sent in response to councilman Constant's proposal saying that it's not possible to block all Web sites that could be harmful to children.

The California Library Association was

See **FILTER**, Page 2



Silberto Hernandez, sophomore aerospace engineer

STUDENTS TALK
PRIMARY POLITICS

Who are Spartans supporting in the presidential race? Visit thespartandaily.com for a video feature of our "Campus Voices" segment.

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INSIDE the
DAILY

SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW
The time to prepare is over. Softball team travels to Bakersfield this weekend to open the 2008 season.
See **SPORTS**, page 6

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE
Your candidate of choice may have lost. It's not the end of the world.
See **OPINION**, page 5

NUMBERS GAME
Some students play Sudoku to pass the time, while others think it's a waste of time.
See **STUDENT CULTURE**, page 3

FILTER | Commission to meet at King Library

Continued from Page 1

unavailable for comment.

"The city shouldn't be paying for people to view porn," Constant said.

He said that all the city funded computers in San Jose besides the one's in the libraries have filters on them.

"People shouldn't be looking at porn in the library," said Olivia Enriquez, a business major at SJSU.

Enriquez also said that Internet filters could cause a problem for students who are trying to research information for school.

"Children can get porn anywhere. If they don't see it at the library, kids will see it in other places," said Sarah Jasso, a psychology major.

Jasso said she knows students who only have access to the Internet via the library computers, so it's important for them to be able to research whatever topic they need to.

Constant said he isn't concerned with what SJSU students are using the library computers for because he believes "99.9 percent of students are using the computers for the right reason."

Constant said he wanted students

"The city shouldn't be paying for people to view porn."

PETE CONSTANT
San Jose City Councilman

to have full, unfiltered Internet access once they enter their student identification number.

"This isn't about censorship," Constant said.

He said he wanted to make libraries

"warm and welcoming" so that people are comfortable while they are at the library.

SJSU student Jasso added that students should have a say in what the city can regulate in regards to the library Internet filters.

Lorraine Oback, marketing communications director at the King library, said students can attend a meeting with the library commission Feb. 13 at the King Library.

At the meeting, members of the public may speak in front of the commission to voice their thoughts on councilman Constant's Proposal.

Oback also said that people may give feedback regarding the Internet filtering proposal on the San Jose Library's Web site.

A memo from King Library Director Jane Light to the Rules and Open Government Committee stated that under the Library's current Internet

access policy, any verbal complaint received by the library staff is dealt with immediately.

Light's memo also showed a statistical breakdown of how many arrests have been committed in the 2006-07 fiscal year at the King Library.

Out of more than 2.5 million visitors annually, 11 written complaints were reported about pornography on computers. Sixteen police arrests were made related to sex crimes, and 12 of those crimes were committed at a King Library computer, or about one each month.

Constant said his proposal isn't set in stone, he just believes something needs to be done. He said his proposal might not go to council for a vote until late this summer.

■ **Commission meeting: On Feb. 13 in rooms 225-229 in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library from 7-9 p.m.**

CORRECTION

In a Feb. 5 article titled, "A change at the top of SJSU/City program," it was reported that Political Science Professor Terry Christensen "worked closely with the City of San Jose on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library." While Christensen said he was a supporter of the library's conception, he did not participate with San Jose in its building process or plans.


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Conversation with author

Ishmael Beah

a long way gone

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Ishmael Beah will discuss his upbringing as a child soldier in African Sierra Leone in a conversation with journalist Angie Coiro. Book signing to follow.

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Sudoku puzzles some students while exciting others

By **KIMBERLY TSAO**
Staff Writer

Sudoku is typically a 9 x 9 puzzle. Here's the real beauty: that's not always the case. Just like Monopoly, Sudoku has spawned multiple versions.

Sudoku variations are possibly infinite. These include 3-D, circle and jigsaw Sudoku.

The rule is that every column, row and 3 x 3 box within the puzzle can only contain one instance of the numbers one through nine.

"I understood the directions; it's just hard trying to figure it out," said Brian Rios, a freshman biological forensics major.

Aureen Chowdhury, an undeclared freshman, disagreed.

"I just followed the example from the last solved puzzle," she said.

"It's completely based on logic," said Natalie Phipps, a graduate electrical engineering major, "so you just have to find the right clue and keep going."

"There are only nine numbers that you have to deal with," said Brittany Syrovatka, a junior kinesiology major. "So, it's a lot easier on your brain."

Although its name may have Japanese origins, Sudoku has Arabic roots, according to "Convergence," the Mathematical Association of America's magazine.

In 1984, the game reached Japan. They called it "suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru," which means "the numbers must occur only once." Later, the president of puzzle publisher Nikoli, Kaji Maki, reduced it to single ("doku") number ("su") or Sudoku. Ironically, all countries except Ja-

pan call the puzzle Sudoku. There are publications that call it "number place."

"Initially, Sudoku [was] pretty slow to start with, but later on, I mean, it caught up and there were, like, competitions in India," said, Ashish Giri, a senior electrical engineering major.

He said that growth happened last year with colleges and newspapers holding nationwide Sudoku contests.

In the U.S., the year 2005 saw Sudoku soar in popularity. Columbia College offers a course called Chemistry of Art and Color. Instead of numbers, they use the symbols of organic chemistry, the periodic table and light science.

Still, Sudoku has yet to sneak up on other people.

SJSU student Rios said, "It's kind

of like, I'd say, an underground game but not well known."

Several students cite lack of time as their reason for not playing the game.

"I've been meaning to try it out, but I haven't yet because I'm a full-time student," said Mark Nohr, a senior business management major.

"I like to listen to music or sleep. That's more productive for me because I have a very stressful life," said Rubab Rizvi, a junior Japanese major.

Some students said they prefer to play the game in books or newspapers. Some play Sudoku on their Nintendo DS, with a board game or on their cell phones.

There's also the option of playing it on computers, either with software or online at Web sites such as www.sudoku.com.



LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Sudoku is a number-based game found in books and newspapers.

Author vividly depicts experiences in Sierra Leone

By **DINA BASLAN**
Staff Writer

We all know about war. We hear about it, we see it on TV, we think of the implications that might affect our lives and we move on.

Ishmael Beah, who will be speaking on campus tonight, now gives us the chance to back up a little, take a closer look at what really goes on in a child soldier's life and feel it.

"A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" is an emotionally striking record of lives that experience a reality a lot of us regard as incomprehensible. It is an important first-hand testament to one of the most dangerous wars in the world.

The story is set in Sierra Leone during the civil war that was initiated by the Revolutionary United Front. The government army picks up Beah and uses his fear and helplessness to force him to become a soldier.

Living off of the army's weapons and drugs, he ends up burning

homes and killing civilians that the army convinces him are the cause of his family's death.

Beah introduces us to a lifestyle we come to understand throughout the book, and he allows us to accept our weaknesses as human beings.

We experience and become part of his emotional, physical and psychological struggle, seeing, feeling and tasting his fear and pain. We come to understand why he behaves violently, and we sympathize with him.

While he is on the journey to discover the confusion into which his life has unfolded, we learn of the ways he embraces his life.

From nightmares to physical torture, we walk through forests and

villages in Sierra Leone, and we witness his friends' souls departing their paralyzed bodies while looking him in the eye.

When blood seems to cover almost everything we see, Beah looks up to the sky and notes the sunrises touching his skin.

One of the most powerful aspects of this book lies in its ability to throw readers in the middle of a raided village and allow them to experience it for themselves. It explicitly describes the color, taste, smell and feel of surroundings and people.

Beah illustrates the chaos he goes through in a patient voice, an almost invisible voice that develops a connection between him and the reader.

He shares with us a time of his life when he had lost himself after losing everything he has ever valued.

The value of this book doesn't lie only in the war component. Beah addresses issues that need the world's attention and reminds us of their occurrence. He gives a new meaning to second chances and highlights their effect on his own life.

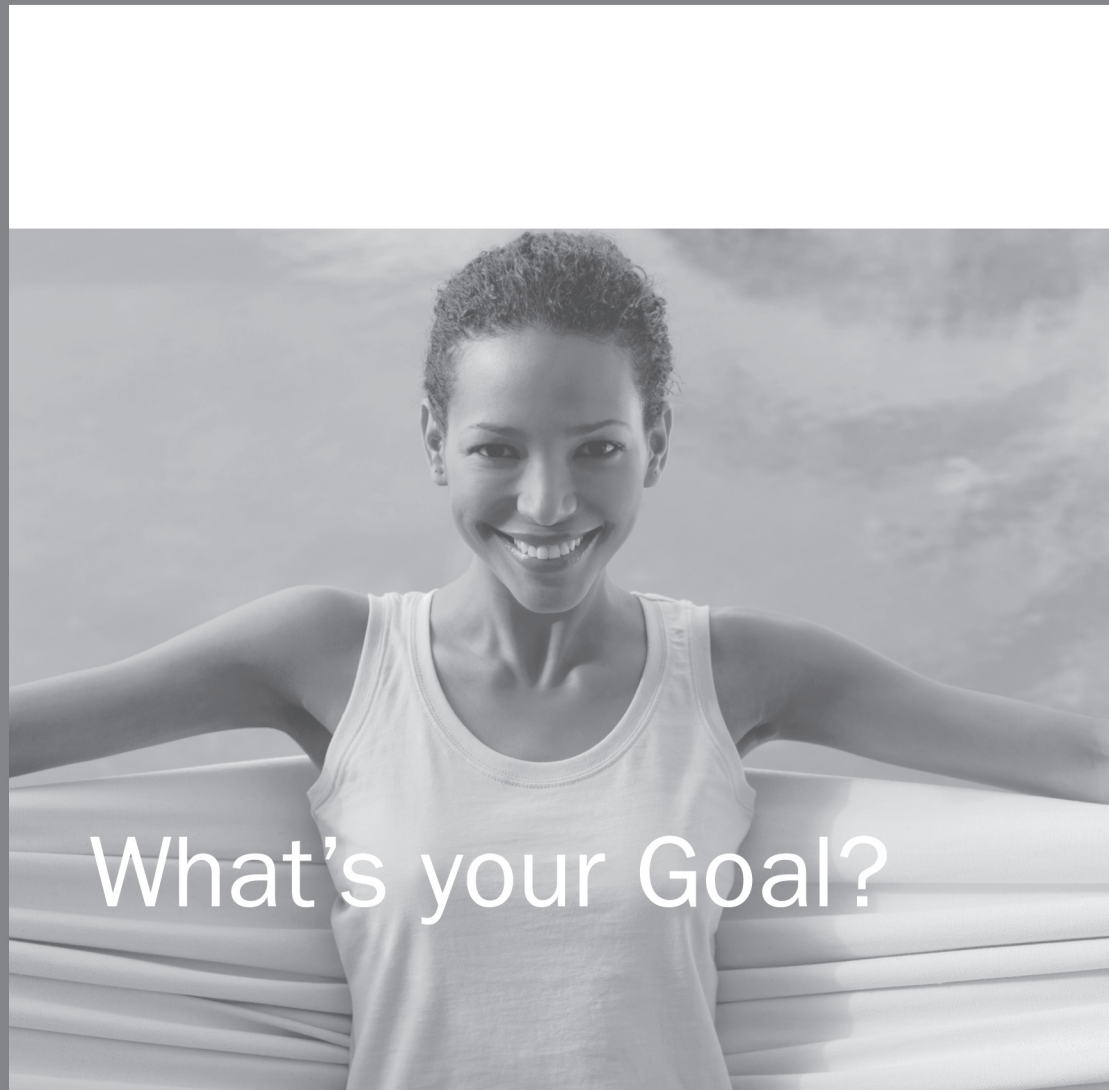
It is heart-wrenching, unflinching, educational, mysterious, painful and rewarding. It is a tale of a young man who has the courage to face and accept the life brought upon him. He speaks for all child soldiers in the world and teaches us how unthinkable brutality can end with ultimate redemption.

Book Review

*A Long Way Gone:
Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*
By Ishmael Beah

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Dressing, marching for Katrina

By TOMMNY WRIGHT
Staff Writer

To help bring awareness of the conditions in the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, members of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project held a Mardi Gras celebration at SJSU on Tuesday.

“We are trying to draw attention to the bill we have in Congress right now, H.R. 4048, to help rebuild the Gulf because the Lower Ninth Ward is still not rebuilt,” said Carlyn Steward, a senior behavioral science major and member of the group. “It’s been two years.”

“So, we’re trying to do something about it, but we are all the way in California,” Steward said. “So we’re just trying to help bring awareness here in California by celebrating Mardi Gras in the traditional way that they would in New Orleans.”

H.R. 4048, or the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Zoe Lofgren with the purpose of rebuilding homes, public infrastructure, and community resources in the areas that were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

It would provide at least 100,000 jobs to those affected by the hurricanes.

“That’s the dirty little secret, the reconstruction that has been done and the clean up that has been done didn’t go to the people of the Gulf,” said associate professor Scott Myers-Lipton, who runs the project. “It went to outside labor, cheap labor, exploited labor.”

“I think people don’t realize the extent of what’s going on over there,” said Julia Lang a sophomore sociology major and member of the group. “There’s human rights violations, there’s government negligence, but we’re targeting this area because it’s been exposed.”

According to Myers-Lipton, the problem is nationwide.

“We’re at the lowest level of investment in public infrastructure since the Great Depression.”

He said they want to look at the problem as a whole, but they are using what they are trying to do for the Gulf Coast as a test.

“There’s really a crisis in America, but the crisis is just more clearly seen



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

A student marches with the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project around noon in front of the Student Union on Tuesday.

in the Gulf Coast because four out of the seven hospitals are still down, 65 percent of all the schools are still down in New Orleans, and not just in New Orleans, in the larger Gulf,” said Myers-Lipton.

The event started with sign and mask making at the Seventh Street Plaza. The group later met at the John Carlos and Tommie Smith statue to begin their procession around campus. The

event featured New Orleans cuisine and the band Bug Horn Rex playing jazz music.

Myers-Lipton said the group hopes to gain the support of 100 members of the House of Representatives for the bill, which now only has Lofgren and two cosponsors on board, but they need help.

“There’s tens of thousands of things to do ... get involved,” he said.

CALIF

ton and McCain won the Democratic and Republican primaries in California, respectively.

Of the ballot initiatives, only Proposition 93 remained close, with 100,000 votes separating the two sides, also at 11 p.m.

There were problems all over the state in Tuesday’s record-setting California presidential primary, resulting in confusion in several counties.

Voters in Santa Clara County encountered problems with voting, according to the Associated Press, with precincts in Cupertino and Palo Alto running out of ballots. Voters were given plain paper ballots, or asked to use their sample ballots instead.

Similar problems happened in Alameda County, where there was controversy over whether polling places would stay open past the 8 p.m. closing time based on a judge’s ruling.

According to the secretary of state’s office, polling places in the county closed on time, and the judge’s order was rescinded. Voters who were in line were still allowed to vote well past the 8 p.m. closing time to account for the problems, the office said.

Problems concerning decline-to-state voters arose in Los Angeles County as well. Bowen voiced concern over the ballot and the situation.

“I’m concerned about voters feeling disenfranchised if they didn’t realize that they didn’t have to fill in that second bubble,” she said.

Decline-to-state voters were turned away or faced with a confusing ballot that included a ballot with extra bubbles to fill in to say which primary they were voting in.

Clinton supporters called Democratic voters all day, starting at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning. The calls, though, had been going on much longer.

“We’ve been making phone calls for two weeks,” said Karen Thomas, a Clinton campaign volunteer, saying that the campaign had been calling absentee voters, women, and Latinos.

Supporters for Clinton voiced that, regardless of a Democratic voter’s choice, it was a vote for change.

“Both Sen. Clinton and Sen. Obama have both made [change] the centerpiece of both their campaigns,” said Lauren Levinson, a volunteer for the Clinton campaign.

VOTE| Polls swamped

where they could vote Tuesday, apparently unaware that Florida’s presidential primary was last week.

It was the apex — so far — of an election season in which unusually wide-open party races, markedly increased voter interest, and the most diverse set of finalists ever have all converged.

Or in the words of Jessica Pomey, a 29-year-old Obama voter from Oakland: “Politics used to be something you didn’t talk about. Now it’s everywhere, in hair salons, everywhere. It’s part of the conversation.”

The geographic scale was unprecedented for a primary season — and, in a way, bigger than most general elections, which are fought mostly in a few battleground states.

Voters found themselves in lines all over the country thinking about the intricate details of health care proposals, or the delicate state of Iraq, or which Republican matched up best against which Democrat, or the other way around.

“I’ve been voting since I was 18, but this vote is one of the more important ones because of the impact it will have on a national level,” said Tessica Mitchell, 23, who voted on an enclosed porch at a family farm in Meridian, Okla.

“I just think it’s my responsibility to get out and vote.”

In what amounted to a national primary — or maybe a national semifinal — 24 states held primaries or caucuses, the Republicans with 1,023 delegates at stake in 21 contests and the Democrats with 1,681 at stake in 22, plus American Samoa.

And the candidates themselves made for a remarkable tableau: The last standing included a woman, a black man, a Mormon, a one-time prisoner of war and a Baptist minister.

On the Democratic side, Obama competed with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. For the Republicans, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney did battle with Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

For remarkable scenes, it was also hard to beat U Lucky Dawg in Chicago — a hot dog joint that doubled as a touch-screen polling place.

Voters there were undeterred by both a technical glitch that left just one touch-screen machine working or the 6-foot frankfurter draped in an American flag that loomed nearby.

“I just feel we live in this country, we should exercise our rights, you know?” said David Turow, an accountant who has served as an election judge since he was 18.

As voters left the restaurant, he called after them cheerily: “See you in November.”

Daniel Schereck, a 33-year-old project manager discussing the election at a San Francisco playground named for Joe DiMaggio, said he opted for Clinton because his key issue was universal health insurance.

Plus, “I know where she stands on the issues,” he said.

I would happily have voted for Obama if I knew what he stood for other than change.”

Change — it had long since become the buzzword, used by candidates on both sides, for a contest to decide who should follow Bush’s eight years in office.

STATE BY STATE

Obama : 13 states

Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, Utah

Clinton : 9 states

Arkansas, Arizona, California, Massachusettes, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee

McCain : 9 states

Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Jersey, New York

Romney : 7 states

Alaska, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Utah

Huckabee : 5 states

Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia

Source: The Associated Press

Classifieds

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HOW TO PLAY
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Witty remark
5 Nonchalant
10 Twisted
14 Gen. — Bradley
15 Ventricle neighbor
16 Mets' stadium
17 Tinsy speck
18 Mood
19 Fruit tree
20 Smarts
22 Beyond the diamond
24 Nervous
25 Camelot royal
26 Need a scratch
28 High — (horseplay)
32 Orient
35 Ill-mannered one
37 A Ryder
38 Oaters' Lash La —
39 Juicy steak (hyph.)
41 Swear solemnly
42 Old sayings
45 Corral
46 Kitten's mitts
47 Thresholds
48 Milky Way part
50 Makes up for
54 Like Hambo
58 Aromatic seed
61 Large snake
62 Pre-owned
63 Harsh sound
65 Thomas Hardy heroine
66 Directed
67 Pentium producer
68 Past the deadline
69 Presently
70 Investment
71 Coup d'—

DOWN
1 Floor beam
2 Wax theatrical
3 Gown fabric
4 Commuter's need

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

AAHS		GRR	ROOF
GRILL	MAZE	YIPE	
OLLIE	ELAN	ELIA	
GOODNEWS	ASSENT		
	NIL	LIE	RES
PIGEON	LILAC		
OCEAN	REVENUES		
DENT	NAMED	KITE	
STEGODON	PERIL		
	RUNIN	LASERS	
OKS	ALI	HAI	
DYNAMO	PUGNOSES		
DOOM	CALM	TOOTH	
ETRE	ATOP	SHANE	
ROTS	LAP	SPAS	

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5 Words from Scrooge
6 Gymnast Mary — Retton
7 Chain mail monster
8 Husky
9 Terra firma
10 Headache remedy
11 Roller coaster
12 Bona fide
13 Fabric measure
21 Obtain
23 Japan's highest peak
25 Fictional whaler items
27 Bunkhouse
29 Smoked salmon
30 Discern
31 Familiar sayings
32 Geologic time divisions
33 Imported car
34 Official imprint
36 Coxcomb
37 Left
40 Loch —
43 Make happy
44 This senora
46 Gab
49 Tan or Grant
51 — vincit amor"
52 Lunch periods
53 Puts forth
55 Swindle
56 Shade-loving plant
57 Beginning
58 Caribbean republic
59 Strong — ox
60 Start all over
61 Leather-to-be
64 Date regularly

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69				70						71		

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A message to those who are disappointed



DAVID ZUGNONI

Beginnings of Marathons

So it might look bad for your presidential candidate of choice.

Don’t kill yourself.

I know you may have spent countless hours reading the news and watching television and debating with your friends and attending events to make sure that you’re informed and that your vote will absolutely be the right one, but really, there’s no reason to get suicidal.

On the other hand, since you’ve spent all of that time educating yourself while your friends were out having their ignorant fun, you now know exactly who the best person for the job is, and you just can’t stand that so many people voted for someone else. Even so, be reasonable. Don’t kill yourself.

You’ve made it through more than seven years of the Bush administration without any problems, unless, of course, a loved one was sent to fight in that ridiculous war and had his head accidentally blown off by friendly fire. You can make it through the next administration, I’m sure.

At least our next president won’t insult the public’s intelligence as blatantly as our current

one did May 1, 2003, by putting on a pilot’s costume and staging a victory speech for a war that persists today.

The only mission he set out to accomplish was to fool people into thinking he knew what he was doing.

At least we won’t be dealing with that dude for much longer. So, if you haven’t killed yourself yet, you really shouldn’t think about it now.

Our remaining candidates may not be your favorites, but you were down to your second or third or eighth choice by the primaries anyways, right?

I mean, any candidate with anything original or honest to say is officially out of the race and never really had a chance anyway, except for Ron Paul, who isn’t officially out of the race but indeed never had a chance.

Anybody who has the money to run for president is too rich.

Chris Dodd intrigued me way back when, but I don’t think I have to go too far out on a limb to assume that a lot of you don’t know who he is.

With the candidates we have left, we are really just dealing with varying degrees of disappointment.

And disappointment is nothing new for any thinking American.

I’ll never be pleased with a president. I think all politicians are evil.

Anybody who has the money to run for president is too rich.

And people who have the money to run for president and decide to spend it on campaigning, knowing that their money could go to waste and that they would still be too rich, are beyond too rich.

Again, Ron Paul is the exception here because he wouldn’t even be in the conversation if it weren’t for the fundraising by his supporters, but he’s the exception in a lot of ways.

He is the exception because he defied many of the traits of the Republican Party.

He attempted to appeal to rational, thinking people, regardless of their previously held political views, and that didn’t go over well enough within his party for him to succeed.

The problem with the two-party system and the primary election system is that someone like him has no chance.

Instead, our next president will be someone who has satisfied one of two simplistic viewpoints: the right or the left, the red or the blue.

And as long as the country is divided into these two preset categories, with no gray area (or should I say purple area?), there won’t be any progression in American politics.

So, remember, if the candidate you voted for didn’t do so well, don’t kill yourself. We might need your angry self to help fight if we people ever try to make a real change.

“Beginnings of Marathons” appears every Wednesday. David Zugnoni is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.

Who are the real terrorists?



By LIZA ATAMY
Staff Writer

The Sept. 11 attacks on the United States have placed Muslims and Islam in the forefront of American media — in a negative and unforgiving light.

“Malicious generalizations about Islam have become the last acceptable form of denigration of foreign culture in the West; what is said about the Muslim mind, or character, or religion, or culture as a whole cannot now be said in mainstream discussion about Africans, Jews, other Orientals, or Asians,” Edward Said wrote in his book, “Covering Islam.”

I was born and raised in this country as a practicing Muslim and never have I felt so out of place and marginalized in my own country as I have since the World Trade Center attacks.

Flipping through the pages of a newspaper, I’ve read: “Islamic terrorists responsible for suicide bombing.” Are you kidding me? Islamic terrorists? When, in its 1,400 years of existence, did Islam coincide with terrorism?

When people associate terrorist attacks with the religion of Islam, do they ever stop to think of educating themselves on the religion first?

Because Osama Bin Laden cited religious motives for his criminal attacks, a debate started brewing in American media over the true nature of Islam and whether it justifies or even encourages violence, particularly on non-Muslims.

Many media outlets referred to the Sept. 11 terrorists simply as “Muslims,” which fueled stereotyping of Islam and did absolutely nothing to help stop the verbal and physical attacks taking place against Muslims in the United States at the time.

Using religion to justify immoral action is the oldest trick in the book. When Timothy McVeigh caused catastrophe in Oklahoma City and claimed he was doing it in the name of religion, I don’t remember seeing one news medium blaming or defaming his religious beliefs.

Why is it that when a person who “looks” Muslim (whatever that may look like) or has a Muslim name, his or her religion, instead of that individual’s wrongdoing, is put on display to criticize and denounce?

First and foremost, not all Arabs, Middle Easterners, or “Muslim-looking” people are Muslim.

In fact, according to Columbia University’s Middle East and Islamic Studies Resources Web site, all monotheistic religions and some polytheistic religions are practiced in regions where Islam is the most widespread religion. But that is not the case here.

These terrorists who claim to be Muslim use the religion as a means to their end — to commit heinous acts

of crime against humanity for their own distorted reasons. If they were truly Muslim, then they would know that the religion condemns any kind of violence toward all living things.

What hurts me even more is that the media is responsible for Americans’ distorted perception of Islam.

I admit we have grown passive in this age of technology, when instead of reading, researching and attaining knowledge on subject matter such as religion, politics and world affairs, we depend on the minute-long “news” coverage of current events from stations such as FOX and CBS.

Using religion to justify immoral action is the oldest trick in the book.

Due to this ignorance, the situation for Muslims in America isn’t progressing; instead it is becoming more difficult for Muslims to practice their rights as citizens in this country. When making a donation to a local mosque, Muslims are questioned, interrogated and accused of supporting terrorists across the world.

When active Muslims try to bring organization and unity to their neighborhoods, they too are “terrorized.”

According to an article published in the Oct. 17, 2007 issue of the New York Times, Debbie Almontaser, principle of the Khalil Gibran International Academy in New York City, was criticized by parents and conservative columnists for starting an educational program for young children that they said would promote “radical Islam.”

The article stated Almontaser resigned from her position and said representatives of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein had threatened to close the school if she did not resign.

To make matters more uncomfortable for Muslim-Americans such as myself, Muslims are hardly ever shown in a positive light (or normal light for that matter).

When organizations such as the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara raised money for Hurricane Katrina victims and the victims of the tsunami in Indonesia, not one media outlet covered the fundraising.

When the association organized a candlelight vigil held at the City of Santa Clara Government Center, supporting the victims and condemning terror, not one media outlet covered it.

I was raised to accept and respect people of different ethnicities, origins and religions, and I have always expected the same amount of respect in return.

I am not asking for pity or special treatment — that is not the case here. I am asking that Americans search for the truth themselves with research and analysis and that they come up with an objective conclusion based on their findings.

The easiest way out is to label a group of people — in this case, Muslims as terrorists.

Indeed, ignorance truly is bliss.

Letter to the editor FDA policy lacks scientific rationale

I applaud President Kassing for his leadership in enforcing the university’s nondiscrimination policy. The lifetime ban policy made in 1977 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration demonstrates a dedication to prejudice over rational science. Principal blood services organizations concur that there is no rationalization for treating gay and bisexual men differently than straight men. Given modern science and the reality that anyone is vulnerable to infection, there is no medical or scientific rationale for this bigoted policy. The real health danger is denying countless numbers of men who charitably want to contribute blood. I am disappointed that the FDA chose not to heed the scientific advice of the Red Cross and hope that the FDA realizes that we are in 2008, not 1977.

-Evan Low, council member, City of Campbell

Comment from the Web Kassing is out of his jurisdiction

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration policy banning gays from donating blood does not constitute a discriminatory action against the gay community. Discrimination typically entails a positive loss on the part of those that are being discriminated against. The gay community is not losing anything tangible by being barred from donating blood. It goes without saying that Don Kassing must be a fool to think that his silly university’s anti-discrimination policy could supplant the regulatory statutes of the federal government. Mind you, the FDA is a federal agency. Kassing’s policy is not likely to hold up in court. One thing that surprises me is that no one has thought that Kassing might be overstepping his jurisdiction. Kassing is not just barring blood drives from being held at the university, he is barring student groups as well as employees of the university from organizing blood drives. If this applies to student groups that wish to hold blood drives off campus, then he is certainly overstepping his jurisdiction.

-Anonymous

Caution: Zombie crossing



SARAH KYO

The Kyo Protocol

Once upon a time, when the clock struck midnight, Cinderella’s coach turned into a pumpkin.

Once upon a time, when the clock struck midnight, I once thought that it way past my bedtime.

Fairy tales don’t translate well into reality.

Before I transferred to SJSU a couple of years ago, pulling an all-nighter was reserved in case of “emergencies,” such as papers and projects that were due the next day. Now, either those emergencies seem to be more frequent, or I’m finding other ways to put off going to bed.

Going out doesn’t even need to be an excuse for staying up late into the night. I can stay indoors at my place and find some reason to not doze off.

Not getting enough sleep, though, does take its toll.

It’s hard to concentrate when your eyes want to close, and your body wants the comfort of a nice, warm bed, not to mention that your head may start aching and you may feel compelled to inject some caffeine into your system.

During Sunday’s Super Bowl, there was a commercial for Diet Pepsi Max, a more caffeinated version of the artificially sweetened drink. Like the people in that commercial, I’ve sometimes felt compelled to nod off all of a sudden. Unlike the people in that commercial, though, I don’t plan on drinking that beverage, nor do I do any sideway head-bopping a la the film “Night at the Roxbury” to the song “What Is Love?”

“What is love?” Haddaway sings, “Baby don’t hurt me, don’t hurt me, no more.”

Forget about the baby. Why do I abuse myself with my lack of sleep? Why do we do it?

Sometimes it can be just out of necessity because of our busy, over-scheduled lives. Sometimes that’s out of our hands, but other times it’s our own fault. Plus, there always seems like there is more that needs to be done. If I’m not doing something, then I’m thinking about doing something. Constantly thinking about something can keep you up at night.

Some people need energy drinks and coffee to stay awake, while others need pills just to go to sleep. Then there are the people who need all of the above. It’s an ironic situation.

Why do I abuse myself with my lack of sleep?

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, about 20 percent of U.S. adults don’t sleep enough, while about 50 million to 70 million Americans have a chronic sleep disorder.

Sleep deprivation can have more dire consequences than missing one of your professor’s lectures. I’ve known a couple people who have fallen asleep at the wheel and got into car accidents as a result.

Fortunately, in both cases, they survived. Even more fortunately, no one else was harmed because of it.

The Mayo Clinic has tips on its Web site for improving one’s sleep habits, such as exercising regularly and using sleeping pills as a last resort.

For your sake, as well as the sake of others, make bedtime a routine.

Night night, sleep tight, and don’t let the bedbugs bite.

“The Kyo Protocol” appears every Wednesday. Sarah Kyo is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

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Letters to the editor must contain the author’s name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

the DAILY QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We’ve always seen Feb. 5 as a very daunting day, and we’re going to come out of it in far better shape than we imagined. The fact that we may come out of this with a draw or even a bit better far exceeds our expectations.”

DAVID PLOUFFE

Sen. Barack Obama’s campaign manager

Opening-week schedule

SJSU @ CSU Bakersfield
Fri., *Sat., Sun., Feb. 8 - 10

SJSU @ Sacramento State
Tuesday, Feb. 12 1 p.m.
@ *Shea Stadium*

+SJSU vs. CAL 2 p.m.
Feb. 13 @ *SJSU Field*

SJSU @ Louisville Slugger Desert Classic
Feb. 15 - 17 in Las Vegas

* doubleheader
+ home opener



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Last season SJSU pitcher Roxanne Bejarano struck out 150 batters in 38 appearances, which included 21 complete games and three saves. Bejarano returns this season as a senior.

Softball team swings into action this weekend

By CODY HAUETER
Senior Staff Writer

Coming off of a 23-28 record last year, the SJSU softball team is gearing up for the start of the 2008 season, which begins on Friday, Feb. 8, at Cal State Bakersfield.

Last year's team was led by first-team All-WAC outfielder Elizabeth Perez, who batted .354 with 17 steals. Perez, along with third baseman Sarah Smith, was named to the 2008 Preseason All-WAC team.

Although the Spartans return 12 players from last year's squad, there are also 11 new players looking to

make an immediate impact.

"I think we are going to do well," said freshman outfielder Sarah Taniyama. "Our team has a lot of talent. We've been battling the weather for the past week, but I think we have managed and are really ready to play."

The first games will represent a chance for the team to get off on the right foot. It expects to come out on top this weekend in Bakersfield, where the Spartans will face the Roadrunners in a four-game series.

"My expectation for this weekend's games are for us to show everyone what Spartan softball is all about," said senior pitcher Roxanne Bejarano. "We

are expected to finish fifth this season in the WAC, which means people are underestimating us. I believe we are going to surprise many people."

Bejarano was SJSU's top pitcher last year in wins, earned-run average and appearances finishing the season with 15 wins and a 2.50 ERA.

"This season we have a tough schedule, but I know we have the talent to come out on top."

ROXANNE BEJARANO
SJSU Senior Pitcher

She said the team is looking to start the season strong and remain consistent throughout.

"The beginning of the season, defense is what usually stands out," Bejarano said. "Right now, ours is solid. I would say our offense is going to get tested this weekend with their first chance to face live pitching, but I do think that in a short amount of time our hitters will be ready and on their way to have an impressive year."

Head coach Peter Turner, who returns for his second year as coach for the Spartans, said that execution would be the key to guaranteeing wins this season.

"We have good athletes and bench strength," Turner said. "Experience is our only weakness."

Last year the team beat one of its strongest opponents, the University of Hawaii, but fell to the University of Nevada – Reno in the WAC tournament — the team's worst loss according to Turner.

"I hope that we will win more games than last year and be a bigger threat in the WAC," said freshman Alana Aweau, who plays first base and outfield.

This season, the team expects Fresno State University and Hawaii to be its toughest competition.

"They are the obvious teams to beat," Bejarano said. "Along with these WAC teams, we have games against four PAC-10 schools, including ASU, Oregon, Cal and Stanford. This season we have a tough schedule, but I know we have the talent to come out on top."

Bejarano said the team has demonstrated versatility during its off-season practices — a component of its game that would allow the team to stay competitive.

"We have great depth all around," Bejarano said. "Our short game will be on, accompanied with some speed. We also have a more power-hitting team. This year's team will bring a much more successful season that Spartan softball has been missing for some time."

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The Andean World	Study the history of the people of the Andes and visit Machu Picchu. Cuzco, Peru
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Writing Workshop (100W)	Spend 3 weeks at SJSU and 3 weeks in Sweden exploring the culture and using the location for the basis of the 100W writing class. Uppsala, Sweden
Archaeological Field School	Participate in an active archaeological dig of a sugar plantation in the Caribbean. Nevis, West Indies

Major Specific:

Social Justice in Argentina	Study issues pertaining to social work, human rights and social justice in the capital city. Buenos Aires, Argentina major: <i>Social Work/Sociology/Psychology/Social Science</i>
Counselor Education in China	Study in Chinese university and work with local students on various counseling projects. Jinan City, China major: <i>Counselor Education</i>
Physical Education in China (Olympics)	Study international physical education and visit Olympic sites in China. Shenyang, China major: <i>Kinesiology</i>
Visual Thinking & Creativity	Study, draw, paint and explore the art of France. Paris, France major: <i>Animation/Illustration</i>
Student Teaching in Guatemala	Student teach in local elementary schools. Antigua, Guatemala major: <i>Elementary Education</i>
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